

[Translation]

### Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project

\*443. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power in megawatt being generated by the kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project and the target of power generation fixed at the time of setting up of this project;

(b) the number of families displaced and the number of displaced family members out of these to whom jobs have been provided by the Government so far;

(c) whether the Ganga water is getting polluted by this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement R.N. Sengupta Committee Report;

(f) if so, the time by which the report is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) The Installed generating capacity of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) is 840 MW (4x210 MW). All the units are under commercial operation. During 1996-97, this station generated 3318.3 Million Units against a generation target of 3200 Million Units.

(b) The number of families displaced due to acquisition of land for Kahalgaon STPP is 171. Out these, 20 persons have been given jobs in NTPC. In addition, 38 persons have been engaged with contracting agencies.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The quality of effluents emanating from the Kahalgaon STPP viz., ash pond effluent, main plant effluent, are within the statutory limits prescribed by the Bihar State Pollution Control Board.

(e) to (g) This Ministry is not aware of the Sengupta Committee Report.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very important question and I would like to dwell into its background.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make a speech in the name of background.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Sir, this question had been raised in Legislative Assembly of Bihar and also sent to the Governor of the state. Villagers had staged dharna for 190

days and also observed fast unto death but this problem could not be solved. As you all are aware, work on Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station was started in 1982-83. In 1985, the then Chief Minister Shri Bindeshwari Dubey called a meeting with the management and displaced persons in his chamber. In this meeting all the controversial issues were resolved but so far the decisions taken therein have not been implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : This problem have not been solved so far. Thus I have raised it in Lok Sabha, so that poor and backward Harijans, who are affected by this project could get justice. A movement was launched for it. This Super Thermal Power Station was set up to generate power upto 1840 megawatt but only four units with a capacity to generate only 840 megawatt could be installed. The land of poor people was acquired for it. Kahalgaon area of Bhagalpur is famous for agriculture. The land of poor people had been acquired 12-13 years ago but so far the proposed power plant with a capacity of 1000 megawatt has not been set up. 840 families were displaced for this project where as the Government has given an incorrect reply that it has taken a decision to provide employment to 171 displaced families. A penal list was prepared for it. So far on the basis of one member per family 20 persons have been provided job whereas remaining 151 families are still in the waiting. I would like to know by when members of these 151 families will be provided jobs. Secondly, pollution being created by it....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question you have already taken 7 minutes.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : I am saying that by when these 151 families will be rehabilitated and given employment.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the feasibility report was prepared earlier and the target was 1625 M.W. and 30 M.W. by the Bihar Government. The original target was 2800 M.W. When they submitted the detailed project report, the target was reduced to 1800 M.W. because Farakka and Kahalgaon projects come in the same field. That is why they reduced it. Now the proposal for coal linkage has gone to CEA for clearance.

As regards, the rehabilitation of 150 persons to which the hon. Member is referring to, the Kahalgaon and NTPC authorities are doing the rehabilitation as per the policy and norms prepared after discussion with the World Bank and the Bihar Government. Out of 2086 persons, 1586 persons have been rehabilitated. A sum of rupees two and a half crore has been spent on the compensation of land. We are giving them jobs of supervisor, workmen and we are also allotting shops to them. Out of 2062 persons, 1550 persons were given direct jobs or petty contracts. We have spent Rs. 2.5 crore for social development. Whatever we have implemented so far is as per the recommendations of the Rehabilitation Committee. We are doing it in consultation with local union leaders and the Bihar Government.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, as regards the people who have not been rehabilitated so far, the Government will give it high priority and see that they are rehabilitated.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the water contaminated by ash emanated by this Super Thermal Power Project is spreading in the area and has rendered 1000 acre land of farmess uncultivable. This area is famous for production of Litchi, mango and wheat, thus such an area should have not been selected for setting up Thermal Power Plant. It has destroyed thousands of acres of cultivable land. The silt in bottom of Ganga can cause dreaded epidemic of joundice. Whether the Government will take effective measures to check pollution and provide drinking water. Though the hon. Minister has not responded to several problems raised here but hon. Prime Minister has given assurance in this House. I demand that a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to inquire into the facts regarding the *dharna* staged by the affected persons for 190 days and calousness of officers who have not taken any action in this regard. Report of this proposed Committee should be presented in the House.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you say the Committee can be constituted for it. But it will be better and immediate action can be taken if MPs elected from this area, be they from any political party, conduct a study in this matter and tell me the facts.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Power that Uttar Pradesh is facing acute shortage of power. Around Rs. 600 crore of R.E.C is due on Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh and the state is unable to pay even the interest accrued on this amount. For the last 2-3 years the work in the sector of power production has come to a standstill.

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to whether the loan due on Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh will be waived off in the same way as loan of Punjab has been.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not relate to the original question. This question relates to Super Thermal Power Projects

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the land is acquired by the Government for setting up a network of factories, raining the mines and in the same way land of Kahalgaon was acquired for Super Thermal Power Project. A provision of providing employment to the persons displaced from the site of Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station was made but so far only 20 persons have been given employment in this project. Various Public Sector undertakings have different type of provisions in this regard. Like Coal India provides employment to one person for acquiring 3 acres of irrigated land or 2 acres of unirrigated land. I would like to know from the Government as to what is the provisions for providing employment to land losers in Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station. How many persons were to provide employment for how much land for 2 acres or 3 acres of land or one member of the affected family.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, the total land acquired earlier....

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : That is not my question. My question is, what is your policy?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has asked as particular question. Do you have the answer?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Earlier, when the NTPC acquired the lands, there was no policy at all with regard to land oustees. When we have gone to the World Bank for taking loans, the World Bank told that the NTPC should provide jobs and basic facilities to the land oustees. For the rehabilitation of the land oustees, a survey was done and it is under consideration of the World Bank. According to that, for the land that we acquired, we have to give compensation.

SHRI REMENDRA KUMAR : I am not asking anything about rehabilitation. I am asking a very specific question. What is the norm for giving employment to land losers, whose land has been acquired by the NTPC? There should be some provision of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is, are you providing employment to those people?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Yes, Sir, we are providing employment to the land oustees depending on their qualification....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister said that they have certain norms for providing employment.

SHRI REMENDRA KUMAR : Can the Minister not state the norms for giving employment to land losers? The Minister is not stating the whole facts about giving employment to the land losers, whose land has been acquired by the NTPC.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The hon. Members might keep in mind what I had said earlier. In this particular project, there are only a few people left, who have not yet been employed. I had requested the hon. Members, and that includes him, Sir, that it all the Members tell me how many people are still unemployed, I will look into it very favourably.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

#### World Bank Aid

\*444. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and other foreign agencies have provided any assistance to Rajasthan and other States to undertake water supply schemes and sanitation schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those places where work has already been started under these schemes; and